

Claims

1. A fifth wheel coupling apparatus for connecting a towing vehicle to a towed vehicle, including a kingpin attached to the towed vehicle and a fifth-wheel receiver attached to the towing vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

5 swinging linkage members pivotably coupled to both the fifth wheel receiver and a frame of the towing vehicle as to permit limited longitudinal and vertical displacement of said receiver and kingpin with respect to said frame as the towing vehicle initiates forward longitudinal movement, whereafter said receiver and trailer also experience forward longitudinal movement.

2. The fifth wheel coupling apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:

5 said receiver is mounted on a wishbone bracket having downwardly extending arms that straddle the frame of said towing vehicle, said swinging linkage members being pivotably coupled to the downwardly extending arms of said bracket.

3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the frame of said towing vehicle is supported by a set of tires, and said swinging linkage members and the arms of said wishbone bracket are disposed between said tires and said frame.

4. The fifth wheel coupling apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

a locking pin temporarily preventing longitudinal displacement of said receiver with respect to said frame to facilitate coupling and uncoupling of said kingpin and said receiver.